Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119883

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY

SUBJECT: DIMITRIOU CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST, MAY 9

1. CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU CALLED ON EUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST MAY 9, ON INSTRUCTIONS, TO DRAW DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO STATEMENT MADE BY TURKISH CYPRIOT CONSTITUTIONAL ADVISER MUMTAZ SOYSAL IN BRUSSELS INTERVIEW TO EFFECT THAT TURKEY WOULD BESTOW RECOGNITION ON TFSC AS INDEPENDENT STATE SHOULD GOC REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN RESUMED INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ON THE BASIS OF THE NEW TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS. (WE HAVE NOT SEEN SOYSAL'S BRUSSELS INTERVIEW, BUT IN HIS REMARKS ON BBC II--ANKARA 3460--HE SAID THAT HE WOULD MAKE AN EFFORT TO GIVE TFSC INTERNATIONAL STATU.)

2. DIMITRIOU SAID THAT THIS WAS ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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TURKISH TACTIC OF USING BLACKMAIL TO FORCE A RESUMPTION OF TALKS. THE GOC REGARDED STATEMENTS SUCH AS SOYSAL'S AS DISTINCTLY UNHELPFUL IN THE PRESENT SITUATION, AND AS HAVING THE EFFECT OF UNDERMINING ANY POSSIBILITY THE SECRETARY GENERAL MIGHT HAVE TO RECONVENE NEGOTIATIONS. SHOULD THE TURKS IN FACT ACCORD INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION TO THE TFSC, THEY WOULD BE BURNING THEIR BRIDGES COMPLETELY. DIMITRIOU

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NOTED THAT ROSSIDES HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BRING SOYSAL'S REMARKS TO WALDHEIM'S ATTENTION.

3. VEST SAID THAT WE WOULD TAKE NOTE OF DIMITRIOU'S STATEMENT. HE REITERATED OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE APRIL 13 TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS WERE SIMPLY A STARTING POINT AND THAT THE TURKISH SIDE WAS READY TO BE VERY FLEXIBLE ONCE NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED. WE BELIEVED THAT THE GOC SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHAT MIGHT BE ONLY A MOMENTARY OPPORTUNITY AND PUT TO THE TEST EXPRESSED TURKISH READINESS TO NEGOTIATE TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. IF NEGOTIATIONS WERE REJECTED, THEN THE CHANCES FOR HARMFUL UNILATERAL ACTS WOULD BE INCREASED AND "CREEPING" CHANGE WOULD SERVE ONLY TO DRIVE THE TWO SIDES FURTHER APART.

4. IN RESPONSE, DIMITRIOU REITERATED STANDARD GOC VIEWS ON THE INADEQUACY OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS AND THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF AGREEING TO A NEW ROUND OF TALKS. VANCE

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